

North Grampian

Including North and West Cairngorms National Park, Monadhliath, Ben Alder, Creag Meagaidh, Loch Ericht and Loch Rannoch

Forecast valid from 00:00 on Thursday 31 Dec 2020 until 23:59 on Friday 01 Jan 2021

Forecast Issued on Wednesday 30 Dec 2020 at 15:33 by Met Office Aberdeen

Confidence: High for broad developments, but low for level of snow falling on Thursday and for details of shower distribution Friday to Monday.

Headline for Thursday 31 Dec 2020: Snow throughout the day. Bitterly cold with strong summit winds.

Mountain weather hazards on Thursday 31 Dec 2020

Blizzards

High Likelihood

Gales

Low Likelihood

Thunderstorms

No Likelihood

Heavy Snow

Medium Likelihood

Severe chill effect

High Likelihood

Heavy persistent rain

No Likelihood

Storm force winds

No Likelihood

Poor visibility

High Likelihood

Strong sunlight

No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m

Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
							
Cloudy	Light snow	Heavy snow	Heavy snow	Heavy snow	Heavy snow	Light snow	Light snow
Precipitation probability							
10%	60%	90%	>95%	>95%	80%	30%	60%

Forecast for Thursday 31 Dec 2020

Weather: Occasional snow flurries turning to persistent snow before dawn. Then continuous, often heavy snowfall through daylight hours on high ground, but turning to rain below 400m in the morning, 600m in the afternoon. Precipitation turns more showery in the evening, falling as snow down to 400-500m.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: Nil. Cloud extensive above 500-600m occasionally lower in the north during the morning.

Visibility: Very poor at height, prolonged periods of near zero visibility in heavy snowfall and blizzards. Persistent whiteout conditions above the snowline.

Forecast for Thursday 31 Dec 2020

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
1300	19/26 N	23/30 N	28/37 NW	28/36 N	31/41 N	32/43 N	31/42 N	30/40 N	29/39 N
900	11/14 N	13/16 N	17/21 NW	17/22 N	22/28 N	24/32 N	22/29 N	20/27 N	19/26 N
600	5/7 SW	6/9 SW	7/12 W	8/14 NW	11/18 N	14/22 N	12/20 N	10/17 N	10/17 N
300	2/7 N	3/7 N	3/11 N	6/15 N	8/20 N	9/22 N	8/20 N	6/17 N	6/16 N
Glen	4/13 NW	4/14 NW	5/19 NW	6/22 NW	6/21 N	6/21 N	6/20 N	5/19 NW	5/18 NW

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
1300	-8/-16	-7/-16	-6/-16	-5/-15	-4/-14	-4/-14	-5/-15	-5/-15	-6/-15
900	-5/-10	-4/-10	-3/-10	-2/-9	-2/-9	-2/-9	-2/-10	-2/-10	-3/-10
600	-3/-6	-2/-6	-1/-5	-1/-5	0/-5	0/-5	-0/-5	-1/-5	-1/-5
300	-1/-3	-1/-3	-0/-2	0/-2	1/-2	2/-2	1/-2	1/-2	1/-2
Glen	-1/-4	-1/-4	0/-3	1/-3	2/-2	2/-1	2/-2	1/-2	1/-3
Freezing Level*	200m	200m	300m	500m	700m	800m	700m	600m	600m

*Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.

Met Office Aberdeen Meteorologist's View

Some access roads may be difficult or impassable early morning. Deep fresh snow at height will make progress energy sapping and very time consuming. Some uncertainty around how quickly and how high the freezing level rises.

Forecast for Friday 01 Jan 2021

Weather: Frequent showers throughout, falling as snow above around 400m, most continuous across the northern Cairngorms.

Maximum wind: Northwest 25 gusting 30-35 mph, gradually easing through the day to 15 gusting 20-25 mph.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: 10% or less. Cloud likely to be extensive above 800m, frequently lowering to 500-600m near passing showers.

Visibility: Very poor at height with persistent whiteout conditions. Falling to a few hundred meters or less in passing snow showers.

Temperature: Glens: Plus 1 or 2 Celsius.

At 800m: Minus 2 Celsius, falling to minus 4 Celsius in the evening.

Freezing level: 600m, falling to the glens in the evening.